ITALY.

Report from Naples—Cunard and Russian emigrant lines—Plague in Mauritius.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, November 23 and 27, as follows: During the week ended November 21, 1903, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

NAPLES.

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Nov. 18	Citta di Napoli	New York	636	170	1,145	20
18	Aurania	do	239	45	160	6
18	Palatia	do	120	120	1,200	21
21	Liguria	do	474	80	912	12
21	Victoria	do	705	150	975	20
21	Roma	do	647	200	1,235	10

PALERMO.

Nov. 19	Citta di Napoli	New York	249	50	325	27

Cunard Line from Naples.

The sailing of the steamer *Aurania*, of the Cunard Line, from Mediterranean ports for New York, this week, inaugurated a new emigrant service. The Cunarder *Carpathia* will follow next month. These steamers will take emigrants from Trieste, Fiume, Palermo, and Naples.

The Russian steamship line.

In anticipation of the greatly increased emigration for the coming season, the steamer *St. Petersburg*, of the new Russian steamship line, will sail from Naples for New York within a few days. The steamer belongs to the Russian volunteer fleet, and her entrance on the Naples-New York service makes a new departure in Russian shipping. With the exception of the Odessa-St. Petersburg steamship service and the services between ports of European Russia and the Far East, no company owned in Russia has heretofore attempted long-distance sea services. The ships of the new line are at all times held at the call of the Russian Government.

Bubonic plague in Mauritius.

A telegram from the governor of Mauritius states that during the week ended November 12, 1903, there were 81 cases of bubonic plague in the island, with 48 deaths.

Tropical medicine—Geography of disease—Mosquitoes and malaria.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager transmits the following under date of November 29:

Tropical medicine in the Congo Free State.

The expedition of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, which was sent to the Congo Free State with the cooperation of the King of

Belgium, has reached Boma, and an inquiry looking to mosquito prophylaxis has been begun at Boma, Matadi, and Leopoldville. The study of sleeping sickness has been taken up. In the district of Watken it is reported that 4,000 people died from this disease last year, and in the neighborhood of Bundunda, at the confluence of the Kwango and Kassai rivers, the depopulation of the country is threatened. By order of the governor, isolation camps have been established and a military surveillance has begun. Panic prevails at times among the natives, and some of the villages in which sleeping sickness has appeared have been deserted by the inhabitants.

The geography of disease.

As a bearing on epidemiology and tropical medicine, a recent addition to the Cambridge geographical series, the Geography of Disease, by Dr. F. G. Clemow, is of interest. The book is probably the first attempt to treat the g ography of disease independently. The information has been drawn from great numbers of monographs, books of travel, scientific writings, and official reports. Not only are the limiting lines of the spread of pandemic diseases, such as influenza, bubonic plague, Asiatic cholera, and yellow fever defined, but the territories claimed by the ordinary contagious maladies like diphtheria, scarlatina, and measles are indicated. Maps are given to show the distribution of yellow fever, plague, cholera, militensis fever, beriberi, influenza, leprosy, black-water fever, and yaws. It would be interesting to note how far the extension of yellow fever as indicated on the map corresponds with the habitat of stegomyia fasciata. This inquiry would necessitate a reference to different mosquitoes identical with stegomyia fasciata, but described in books on entomology under the various synonyms in use before the separation of the stegomyia from the culex family by Theobald in the new nomenclature given in his monograph published in 1901.

Malaria and public medicine.

Maj. Ronald Ross, professor of tropical medicine, Liverpool University, in an address before the Royal Colonial Institute, November 10, spoke of the remarkable diminution in malarial fevers that has attended the present operations against mosquitoes, especially in Habana, Lagos, Hongkong, Suez, the German colonies, and other regions afflicted with these diseases. In Lagos, one of the most unhealthy of the British possessions, conditions have been so improved that the governor of the country has communicated the information that "malaria has lost its terrors for us at Lagos." In regard to Hongkong, the medical report for 1902 gives the number of deaths of Chinese from malarial fevers in 1900 as 887, in 1901 as 541, and in 1902 as 393. At Ismailia, on the Suez Canal, malarial fevers have long been prevalent. Accurate statistics extending over many years were available. After six months' campaign against mosquitoes it was reported that one class of mosquito had been practically banished from Ismailia. An inspecting officer reported that with the disappearance of these mosquitoes there was a great reduction in the fever. This inspector reported:

Coincident with the destruction of mosquitoes and their larvæ malarial fever at Ismailia this year shows a most striking improvement. All medical officers here are

agreed upon this. Statistics show that up to the present it is the healthiest year on record. Doctor Pressat informed me that from January 1 to June 30 this year there were only 3 cases of malarial fever in hospital, against 52 for the same period last year, and that throughout Ismailia there were 569 cases of fever from January 1 to May 30, 1902 (an average year), against 72 for the same period this year. It is more than probable, moreover, that many of the cases were relapses from previous infection. Bearing in view the remarkable diminution in malarial fevers that has attended the present operations against mosquitoes, it is more than probable that when they are completed malarial fever will practically have disappeared. The reduction of fevers according to figures amounted to 87 per cent at Ismailia.

In the campaign against malaria, Major Ross approved of the series of resolutions recently passed by the Liverpool chambers of commerce associated with the chambers of Manchester and London and the Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, namely, that a fully qualified medical officer of health should be appointed to each of the principal West African towns; that this officer should be supervised by a sanitary commissioner working on the Indian model of organization, and that an annual sanitary report regarding the West African colonies should be regularly published.

Destruction of rats.

French newspaper reports state that Danysz virus has been used at Marseille for the wholesale destruction of rats. It is said that this substance was placed at the disposal of the municipal health authorities by the Pasteur Institute, and that more than a thousand rats were killed with it in a single night. Bread was impregnated with it and scattered in the docks, vessels, railroad stations, and public schools. The poison is said to be harmless to domestic animals.

During a short stay at Marseille on official leave last month, I was informed that the city is greatly infested with rats. At the Punto Franco, Naples, where bubonic plague was introduced two years ago, vigilance is still kept up, and all dead rats found in the neighborhood are submitted to bacteriological examination.

A report from London recounts the efforts being made to exterminate rats along the Thames. In October nearly 6,000 rats were destroyed in the docks and warehouses and on board ships. During the present year up to October 1 nearly 60,000 were killed. In 1902 the number destroyed was 185,982. Since the beginning of the war against rats in London shipping, 249,718 of these animals have been killed.

JAPAN.

Reports from Yokohama—Government measures against plague—Cholera in Nagasaki.

Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, November 13 and 17, as follows: During the week ended November 7, 1903, three vessels, having an aggregate personnel of 124 crew and 193 passengers, were inspected.

No official report of contagious diseases in Yokohama has been received for the period subsequent to October 31, but reports of new cases of plague appear from time to time in the newspapers. Lately the local authorities have enforced extraordinary measures with a view to ridding the city of plague. Wholesale depopulation of certain districts where the infection was particularly persistent has been carried out. A subscription has been initiated for the benefit of the poor